**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

No claims have been amended.

**Listing of Claims**:

1. (Original) A method for an enterprise to assess risks associated with an outside service provider, the method comprising:

identifying outside service provider information that describes the outside service provider;

storing the outside service provider information in a database;

identifying resource information that describes resources of the enterprise associated with services provided by the outside service provider;

storing the resource information in the database;

assessing an impact on the enterprise from a degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

storing the assessment in the database;

automatically determining a criticality of the outside service provider in response to the assessment;

storing the criticality in the database; and

providing status data from the database, wherein the status data comprises at least one of a status of:

the resource information;

the assessment; and

the criticality.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying countries in which the outside service provider operates; and

determining a country impact risk associated with the countries, wherein the step of automatically determining the criticality is also in response to the country impact risk.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of determining a country impact risk further comprises:

collecting economic condition information with respect to the country;

storing the economic condition information in the database;

collecting social condition information with respect to the country;

storing the social condition information in the database;

collecting political condition information with respect to the country;

add storing the political condition information in the database;

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the resources of the enterprise includes at least one software application employed by the enterprise.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of assessing the impact on the enterprise further comprises at least one of:

assessing an impact on external customers of the enterprise resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

assessing an impact on internal customers of the enterprise resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

assessing a financial impact resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

assessing an allowable time period that the degradation of the services from the outside service provider can last; and

assessing an impact on regulatory obligations resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning specific people to fulfill roles with respect to management of a relationship with the outside service provider, wherein the roles include at least one of information owner and information risk manager.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

receiving acknowledgements of the acceptances of the assignments from the specific people.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

assigning alternate people to fulfill the roles.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the role of the information owner comprises at least one of:

obtaining from the outside service provider copies of financial and non-financial audit reports;

obtaining documentation describing the outside service provider's procedural, physical access, logical access and business recovery controls;

requiring notification by the outside service provider of any organization, security-related and other changes affecting the availability, confidentiality, or integrity of the services provided by the outside service provider; and

initiating the risk assessment process.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the role of information risk manager comprises at least one of:

maintaining an updated list of outside service providers used by the enterprise; and

allocating resources for the outside service provider assessment process.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein all of the steps of the method are facilitated using a software application, the method further comprising:

generating data input screens for accepting input from a user; and

providing drop down boxes on the data input screens in order to facilitate selection of predefined information.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising assessing a recovery plan of the outside service provider.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the assessment of the outside service provider recovery plan further comprises:

questioning the developer of the plan as to whether it has required elements; and

developing a corrective action plan to address missing required elements.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the required elements include:

an alternate site for providing the services; and

a business continuity plan for resumption of the services at the alternate site.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing status data further comprises:

providing status data on the enterprise level; providing status data on a line of business level; and

providing status data on a department level.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the enterprise has policies and procedures for protecting the integrity of the provision of services, the method further comprising assessing the compliance of the outside service provider to the policies and procedures.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further comprising developing a corrective action plan if the outside service provider is not in compliance, the corrective action plan containing the steps required to bring the outside service provider into compliance.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising obtaining an acknowledgement by management of the enterprise of risk associated with the non-compliance of the outside service provider.

19. (Original) A system for an enterprise to assess risks associated with an outside service provider comprising:

a user interface for interfacing with users of the system;

at least one database server and at least one application server coupled to the user interface; and

at least one database and at least one application respectively coupled to the database server and the application server;

wherein the system is programmed to:

accept outside service provider information that describes the outside service provider;

store the outside service provider information in a database;

accept resource information that describes resources of the enterprise associated with services provided by the outside service provider;

store the resource information in the database;

assess an impact on the enterprise from a degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

store the assessment in the database;

automatically determine a criticality of the outside service provider in response to the assessment;

store the criticality in the database; and

provide status data from the database, wherein the status data comprises at least one of a status of the resource information, the assessment, and the criticality.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the system is further programmed to:

accept countries in which the outside service provider operates; and

determine a country impact risk associated with the countries, wherein the step of automatically determining the criticality is also in response to the country impact risk.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the resources of the enterprise includes at least one software application employed by the enterprise.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the assessment of the impact on the enterprise further comprises at least one of:

an assessment of an impact on external customers of the enterprise resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

an assessment of an impact on internal customers of the enterprise resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

an assessment of a financial impact resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider;

an assessment of an allowable time period that the degradation of the services from the outside service provider can last; and

an assessment of an impact on regulatory obligations resulting from the degradation of the services from the outside service provider.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the database further includes:

an assignment of specific people to fulfill roles with respect to management of a relationship with the outside service provider, wherein the roles include at least one of information owner and information risk manager.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the database further includes:

acknowledgements of the acceptances of the assignments from the specific people.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein the database further includes:

an assignment of alternate people to fulfill the roles.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the system is further programmed to assess a recovery plan of the outside service provider.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 26, wherein the user interface is used to collect responses from the developer of the recovery plan as to whether it has required elements,

and to collect a corrective action plan to address missing required elements.

28. (Original) The system according to claim 27, wherein the required elements include:

an alternate site for providing the services; and a business continuity plan for resumption of the services at the alternate site.

29. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the status data further comprises:

status data on the enterprise level; status data on a line of business level; and status data on a department level.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the user interface further comprises:

data input screens for accepting input from a user; and drop down boxes on the data input screens in order to facilitate selection of predefined information.